(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. The State Pollution Control Board in respect of States and Pollution Control Committee in respect of UTs are the prescribed authorities to implement and enforce Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 and amendments thereof.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College and Shrimati S.K. Hospital, New Delhi are concerned, the Bio-Medical Waste are disposed as per the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rule, 1998.

Deaths due to alcohol consumption

873. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of people die/suffer from various ailments due to consumption of alcohol;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the consumption of alcohol is also increasing amongst youths and badly affect on their health;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any strategy to restrict the production and sale of alcohol and to create awareness amongst people not to use alcohol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government is cognizant of the fact that consumption of alcohol in excessive amounts can lead to social, economic and health related problems and death also in some cases. A study conducted by NIMHANS for WHO published in 2006 shows that nearly 30% of adult men and less than 5% of women consume alcohol giving a male to female ratio of 6: 1. Alcohol use is higher in poor communities. The average age of initiation has reduced from 26 years during the 80s to 20 years in recent years.

(c) and (d) The policy with regard to sale and distribution of alcohol is within the purview of the State Governments. Therefore, the efforts made to contain the damage done by alcoholism vary from State to State. Apart from this, clinical care, building awareness, counseling and rehabilitation is made available through de-addiction centres and counseling centres run/funded by the Government.

Failure of NRHM due to shortage of doctors

†874. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.